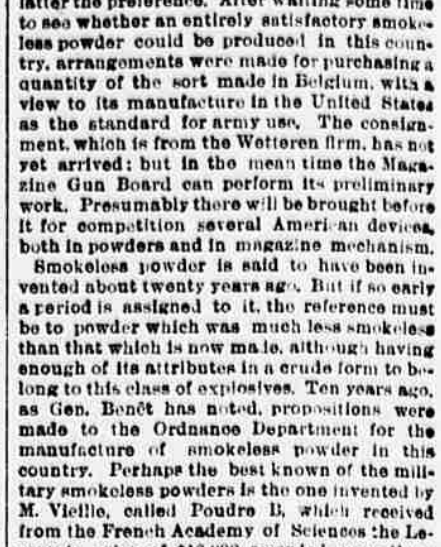


POWDER FOR SMALL ARMS.

INTERESTING RESULTS OF RECENT CHEMICAL EXPERIMENTS

The Wetters, Vielle, Cordite, Graham, and Other Inventions—Repeating Rifles.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 31.—Nearly a year ago Gen. Benét reported that everything was ready for the adoption of a repeating rifle in our army, except the procuring of a proper powder. It was determined long since that the new arm should be of 30 calibre, and an experimental rifle of that bore was manufactured at Springfield. At first it was determined to use a compressed and perforated cartridge in the magazine guns; but before that could be obtained the results achieved in several countries of Europe by smokeless powders gave the



years for the most important discovery made in that period. This is the powder used in the Level rifle, to which it furnishes a remarkable initial velocity, said to reach 2,500 feet per second. It is a very fine grain, and is of a strain on the mechanism. It gives out only a slight hiss, smoke, and a few sparks, and the report is heard but a short distance away. Picric acid is said to be an important ingredient, and it is known as BN, because it is known as being used in heavy guns, to which it furnishes a still higher initial velocity, and a more rapid rate of fire. It is also used in the smaller rapid-fire guns.

The Schultze smokeless powder is famous for its use in the German army, and has been adopted in many countries. Grillich, taking Schultze's invention, gave it a great impetus, and it is now used in the German army, as well as with it for military purposes, by making it burn more slowly. Gelbke is a smokeless powder, which is used in the German army, and with ammonite, the high explosive invented by him.

It is said to give a great increase on the propulsion of the projectile, and is not only not so liable to a small puff, but with a sharp report. The smokeless and noiseless powder invented by Capt. Noble, of the British army, has also attracted much attention. The Maxim smokeless powder is obtained in England, while the French powder is made in France. The one worth special notice is doubtless only a modification of the Rhenish-Westphalian powder, which is the best known. It is a very strong rapid fire gun, as it leaves no residue in the bore and gives out but a light smoke. These guns give a great deal of trouble, for as they are made up of long straight coils, they are liable to jam. The velocity of the shot is reported to have given a velocity of 2,300 feet a second, and to be satisfactory for rapid fire. The Rhenish-Westphalian powder, as Capt. Noble of the English works, and is supposed to consist in the main of blasting gelatin, which is a mixture of nitroglycerine and United Rhine and Westphalian factories produce a well-known smokeless powder, while in Austria the powder is made at the factory at Steyr. It has invented a granular large grain powder, which is not so liable to jam and lower pressure than ordinary powder, and is almost smokeless. The Henschel powder possesses the same qualities, and is a granular gunpowder and is free from danger of explosion through friction or concussion.

The new smokeless powder, the inventions of our Government having been in search of suitable smokeless powders for small arms. It was the first time that the French powder, Dupont, the well-known American powder

Wetteren powder. It was at one time said that Secretary Tracy had been arranging for the manufacture of the smokeless powder of the Rottwell Company of Germany, made also by the London and Chilton Company in England. Lieut. Southerland of the navy, in discussing the matter, said that he had already spoken of, mentions Grakut or gray powder, the invention of a Swede named Skoglund, as reported to have surpassed the Belgian-Wetteren powder, and to have given especial satisfaction on its trial in Russia:

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From the "Philadelphia Press":

The scarcity of ship's cooks at this port, and the consequent necessity of procuring those of England, has become an alarming feature, and it is seldom of late that vessels are sent to sea without a cook. The men are versed in the elementary principles and practice of the art.

On board a vessel, without exception, are sure to cause trouble among the crew, and it is not infrequently the case that it sometimes leads on to mutiny. This condition of affairs can only be accounted for by the fact that the cook is a native of the coasts of Africa or the coasts of China. On board the ordinary merchant ship, the cook is a Chinaman, and, as a rule, a seafarer, he is up before the sun is rising, preparing for breakfast, and seldom goes to bed until the vessel has sailed. His monthly pay is \$35 per month.

Shipmasters know full well the importance of a good cook on board ship, and that if it depends in a great degree the health of the crew, and the success of the voyage, they are therefore not contented to venture on a long voyage with a cook who may come to the end of his term of service at the end of the last voyage in which he served.

It is a well known fact that the American ships have found it more economical to ship Chinamen in the capacity of cooks, and it is seldom that a white man is employed as a cook on a ship known as the deep-water American clipper.

English vessels are falling in with this and are sending their cooks to the Eastward.

Many of the tramp stevedores have secured the right to speak in the highest terms of their ability over the whole mon.

The Society of London are sending out circulars to the governing bodies of the various schools and training institutions urging upon them the necessity of teaching both the practice and art of cooking especially for the benefit of the colored people who are doing the work. On board merchant vessels nowadays tea is well described as "water bewitched and tea betrayed."

Residents of West Point Have No Right to Vote in Highland Falls.

NEWBURGH, Oct. 10.—Attorney General Charles F. Tabor has written an opinion in regard to the rights of residents of West Point to vote on election day. The Attorney-General says substantially that inasmuch as the territory of West Point is owned by the United States, the residents of the territory are not citizens of the United States, the residents of the property thus ceded are not entitled to vote either as citizens or as property owners. The Attorney-General is in support of this cite many legal authorities.

"The residents of the ceded territory, in their homes, in their places of business, in their places of residence, have no vote." If they reside at West Point, they are not residents of West Point, and if they are not residents of West Point, they are not residents of New York.